

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03835 141159Z

53-S

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3835

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, JA

SUBJ: CURRENT ROK-JAPANESE RELATIONS

REF TOKYO 7761

1. FONMIN KIM DONG -JO DURING MEETING JUNE 13 TOLD  
AMBASSADOR THAT ROKG NOT UNDULY WORRIED OVER CURRENT  
STATE OF ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS. JAPANESE MUST ACCEPT  
FACT THAT TWO JAPANESE UNDER INDICTMENT FOR INVOLVEMENT  
IN NFDYS CASE WILL BE TRIED AND SENTENCED FOR VIOLATION  
OF ROK LAW. THEREAFTER, HE IMPLIED, SOME ARRANGEMENT  
MIGHT BE CONSIDERED ON POLITICAL LEVEL. FONMIN DID  
NOT COMMENT ON KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE.

2. WE STILL DO NOT HAVE A COMPLETE READ-OUT ON JUNE 6-  
10 VISIT TO KOREA OF GAIMUSHO ASIAN BUREAU  
DIRECTOR TAKASHIMA. JAPANESE COUNSELOR  
OKAZAKI ACKNOWLEDGED TO DCM, HOWEVER, THAT VISIT WAS PRIMARILY  
TO ASSESS STATE OF ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY  
IN LIGHT OF KIM TAE-CHUNG ARRAIGNMENT AND PENDING  
TRIAL OF TWO JAPANESE. EMBASSY HAD DIFFICULTY ARRANGING  
CALL ON KIM DONG-JO, SUCCEEDING ONLY BY PROMISING THAT  
ROK ASIAN BUREAU DIRECTOR COULD MAKE RECIPROCAL CALL  
ON JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER IN TOKYO. OKAZAKI SAID  
KIM-TAKASHIMA CONVERSATION STARTED OFF COOLLY BUT WARMED UP  
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03835 141159Z

WHEN KIM DISCOVERED HE AND TAKASHIMA HAD

ATTENDED SAME HIGH SCHOOL IN PUSAN. KIM THEREUPON INVITED TAKASHIMA TO PRIVATE "SCHOOL REUNION" THAT EVENING. OKAZAKI SAID TAKASHIMA HAD NOT REVEALED WHAT TRANSPIRED.

3. OKAZAKI SAID HIS EMBASSY UNINFORMED ON ACTIVITIES OF MANY JAPANESE POLITICIANS VISITING SEOUL. HOWEVER, EMBASSY RECENTLY HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL FEELERS FROM PERSONS PURPORTEDLY CLOSE TO PRESIDENT PARK SUGGESTING SOME KIND OF TRADE-OFF BETWEEN KIM TAE-CHUNG AND JAPANESE STUDENT CASES. HE DESCRIBED AS "OUTRAGEOUS" SUGGESTION THAT PRIME MINISTER TANAKA COME TO SEOUL TO APOLOGIZE FOR ACTIVITIES OF TWO INDICTED JAPANESE. IN EXCHANGE, ACCORDING TO THIS SCHEME, KOREANS WOULD COMMUTE ANTICIPATED SENTENCES OF TWO JAPANESE PROVIDED GOJ PROMISED TO CONSIDER KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE CLOSED. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARY SAID THAE TWO SIDES WERE SEEKING "POLITICAL SOLUTION." HE REITERATED THAT A TANAKA APOLOGY MISSION IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT WOULD NOT RULE OUT VISIT BY SOME OTHER HIGH JAPANESE OFFICIAL.

4. OKAZAKI STRESSED THAT SOME SOLUTION TO TWO CASES MUST BE FOUND BEFORE ROK-JAPAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETING, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR AUG OR SEPT. HE SAID SUCH A MEETING COULD NOT BE CONVENED IN THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE, NOR COULD JAPANESE BE FORTHCOMING WITH RESPECT TO AN IAD PROGRAM FOR KOREA.  
HABIB

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